

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 146477
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R 090102Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, SGEN, PINT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES

REF: STATE 084528 (NOTAL)

1. RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, PRESIDENT, APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION (ACF), MET ON JUNE 7 WITH DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INFORM US THAT HE AND THREE OTHER ACF REPRESENTATIVES WILL MAKE A TRIP TO THE USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, AND ROMANIA LATER THIS MONTH. ACCOMPANYING RABBI SCHNEIER WILL BE: THE HONORABLE FRANCIS E. DORN, FORMER CONGRESSMAN (R., NEW YORK, 1953-61) AND NOW ACF SECRETARY-TREASURER; THE REVEREND THURSTON N. DAVIS, S.J., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 146477

THE U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE, AND ACF VICE-PRESIDENT; AND (TO PRAGUE AND BUDAPEST ONLY) DR. DAVID H. C. READ, MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AND ACF VICE-PRESIDENT.

2. THEIR ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

SUNDAY, JUNE 18 DEPART KENNEDY AIRPORT ON SWISSAIR FLIGHT
101; ARRIVE ZURICH, JUNE 19, 10:40 AM

MONDAY, JUNE 19 DEPART ZURICH ON SWISSAIR FLT. 492;
ARRIVE MOSCOW, 7:10 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 26 DEPART MOSCOW ON CZECHOSLOVAK AIR FLT 893;
ARRIVE PRAGUE, 3:45 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 DEPART PRAGUE ON KLM FLT. 281; ARRIVE
BUDAPEST, 11:35 AM

SUNDAY, JULY 2 DEPART BUDAPEST ON TAROM FLT. 226; ARRIVE
BUCHAREST, 5:10 PM

RABBI AND MRS. SCHNEIER PLAN TO REMAIN SOME TEN DAYS IN
BUCHAREST TO HELP CELEBRATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CONSECRATION OF THE CHIEF ROMANIAN RABBI. OTHER TWO
PARTY MEMBERS PLAN TO REMAIN IN BUCHAREST FOR TWO OR
THREE DAYS.

3. THE DELEGATION'S BASIC PURPOSE IN VISITING ADDRESSEE
COUNTRIES IS TO (A) FURTHER THEIR CONTACTS WITH MINISTERS
OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OR LOCAL EQUIVALENTS AND WITH HEADS
OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS, AND (B) TO DO
WHATEVER MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF
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PAGE 03 STATE 146477

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATION AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

4. RABBI SCHNEIER REQUESTED THAT ADDRESSEES PROVIDE A
BRIEFING BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON STATUS OF RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM AND A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL. ACF HAS APPROACHED THEIR
NORMAL CONTACTS DIRECTLY IN HOST COUNTRIES FOR APPOINT-
MENTS, AS IN PREVIOUS VISITS AND THEREFORE REQUESTS
NO OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSIES EXCEPT AS REQUESTED
BELOW.

5. FOR EMBASSY BUDAPEST. RABBI SCHNEIER HAS BEEN IN
TOUCH WITH AMBASSADORESZTERGALYES TO ARRANGE MEETINGS
WITH CARDINAL LEKAI AND MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.
RABBI SCHNEIER WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE IF THE
AMBASSADOR WOULD INVITE HUNGARIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS
FOR COCKTAILS ON SATURDAY, JULY 1, (OR THURSDAY, JUNE
29, IF SATURDAY NOT FEASIBLE). IN PART, RABBI SCHNEIER
AND OTHER ACF REPRESENTATIVES HOPE TO UTILIZE SUCH AN
INFORMAL GATHERING TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR USICA -
SPONSORED PILOT PROJECT TO BRING 8 LEADERS OF VARIOUS
RELIGIOUS FAITHS IN HUNGARY TO THE US IN THE FALL OF

THIS YEAR FOR 3 WEEKS, AND TO URGE THE CARDINAL AND OTHERS TO SELECT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE. (EMBASSY SHOULD KNOW THAT RABBI SCHNEIER PLANS TO CONTACT JAVITS, RIBICOFF AND OTHERS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO

URGE PASSAGE OF US-HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT AND TO ASSURE SENATORS THAT US JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPORTIVE.)

6. FOR EMBASSY MOSCOW. SCHNEIER HAS ARRANGED FOR THE DELEGATION TO MEET , I.A., WITH THE PATRIARCH.

7. FOR EMBASSY BUCHAREST. EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT SCHNEIER HAD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU LAST AUGUST; AMBASSADOR BARNES PARTICIPATED. RABBI SCHNEIER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 146477

INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF INFORMAL SOCIAL EVENT COULD BE ARRANGED WHILE HE IS IN ROMANIA BUT SAID THERE WOULD BE TIME ENOUGH TO DISCUSS THAT WITH THE EMBASSY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL.

8. FOR EMBASSY PRAGUE. EUR/EE WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY BY (SEPTTEL) WITH MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE DELEGATION VISIT.

9. ACF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MADE FREQUENT SIMILAR VISITS TO MOSCOW AND EASTERN EUROPE. RABBI SCHNEIER HAS BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE COLLABORATOR WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARY'S DELEGATION WHICH RETURNED THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN TO HUNGARY AND IS EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON EASTERN EUROPE. VANCE

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